



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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For more information, contact
Matt Brown, Second District Chief of Staff
(909) 387-4833

Equipment Trailers Help Teams Prepare for Disaster

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors agreed to provide equipment trailers to teams of residents trained to render basic aid during a major disaster.

The trailers will be placed in Devore, Ontario, Apple Valley, Yucca Valley, Big Bear City (Community Services District), and Redlands as well as at the County Emergency Operations Center in Rialto to support Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). The teams are made up of residents who have completed training designed to prepare them to help themselves and others following a disaster. The trailers contain supplies such as backboards, first aid kits, fire extinguishers and blankets.

“The County’s first responders will be stretched thin during a major disaster, so neighbors are going to have to pitch in and help each other,” Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane said. “The CERT program is designed to prepare residents to assume that role when the time comes, and the Board is building on the effort by providing our community disaster response teams with trailers to house and transport vital equipment and supplies.”

The San Bernardino County Fire Department began organizing CERTs in 2002 after receiving a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The first County-sponsored CERT was established in the community of Lytle Creek. Today, there are more than 20 CERT programs Countywide, including San Antonio Heights, Fontana, Ontario, Grand Terrace, Colton, Rialto, Lucerne Valley, and Phelan.

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